

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated January 17, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-15, 17-33, 35-39, 41-44, 46-63, 65-69, 71-74, 76-86, 88-92, 94-97, 101-105, and 107-110, and for indicating that claims 100 and 106 recite allowable subject matter.

Applicants amend claims 100, 106, 119-121, and reconsideration of the same is respectfully requested.


Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application, including all pending claims, in condition for allowance, and early, favorable action is hereby respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: May 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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